

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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R 081510Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1689

INFO USUN NEW YORK 786

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, ECLA, SENV, OCON

SUBJECT: ECIA PREPARATORY MEETING FOR UN WATER CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 208317 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: LATINS GENERALLY QUITE INTERESTED IN WATER
CONFERENCE, WITH BRAZIL BEING NOTABLE EXCEPTION. ECLA
SECRETARIAT AND ARGENTINES ACTIVE IN CORRIDOR LOBBYING.
LATINS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH PREPARATIONS TO DATE,
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE IMPRESSION OF LACK OF STRONG LEADERSHIP
ON PART OF CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL. PERSPECTIVES
FOR MAL DEL PLATA AT THIS POINT NOT BAD, BUT WE WOULD GUESS
THAT SOME CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WILL FIND THEIR WAY IN.
END SUMMARY.

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2. UNCLASSIFIED SEPTTEL REPORTS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS.

3. REGIONAL INTEREST IN MAR DEL PLATA CONFERENCE, AS EVIDENCED BY LIMA PREPARATORY MEETING, IS GENERALLY QUITE HIGH AND ORIENTED IN POSITIVE WAY TOWARD GLOBAL WATER PROBLEMS. LEADING CONTRIBUTORS TO AND PARTICIPANTS IN REGIONAL MEETING WERE VENEZUELA, ARGENTINA, PERU AND MEXICO, WITH SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS ALSO FROM COLOMBIA, BOLIVIA, JAMAICA, AND PARAGUAY. BRAZIL (WHICH HAS NOT YET DECLARED WHETHER IT WILL GO TO MAR DEL PLATA) MADE NO PLENARY STATEMENT, BUT DID WORK ACTIVELY ON RECOMMENDATIONS AND MADE PLENARY STATEMENT ENDORSING PARAGUAYAN-PREPARED PREAMBLE.

4. BRAZIL-ARGENTINA SHARED RIVER BASIN DISPUTE WAS UNDERLYING PRINCIPAL PROBLEM, WHICH NEVER SURFACED IN MEETING DISCUSSIONS. BRAZIL HAD COME TO LIMA FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD BANGKOK LANGUAGE, AND THIS WAS THE FINAL BASIS FOR COMPROMISE AGREEMENT. BRAZILIANS MAINTAINED VERY LOW PROFILE THROUGHOUT MEETING.

5. VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WAS MOST ACTIVE IN DRAFTING OF RECOMMENDATIONS. VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA BOTH ACKNOWLEDGED SUPPORT THEY HAD RECEIVED FROM DR. CANO IN PREPARING THEIR WATER LEGISLATION. PERU, IN TURN, HAS RECEIVED SUCH HELP FROM VENEZUELA.

6. MOST ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE WORKERS BEHIND THE SCENES WERE ECLA SECRETARIAT, PARTICULARLY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IGLESIAS, WHO WAS PRESENT FOR FIRST 3 AND 1/2 DAYS OF MEETING. HIS EFFORTS AT HEADING OFF EXPLOSIVE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WERE LARGELY SUCCESSFUL, WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF PANAMA-U.S. CANAL ISSUE, BUT EVEN HERE, ISSUE WAS SUCCESSFULLY KEPT OUT OF WORKING GROUP, AND THUS ACTION PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO WATER CONFERENCE INCLUDE NOT REPEAT NOT EVEN A CLAUSE ON SOVEREIGNTY OVER ONE'S OWN WATER RESOURCES. (THERE IS A CLAUSE RECOMMENDING, IN GENERAL, PUBLIC MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES.)

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7. U.S. DEL MAINTAINED LOW POSTURE IN MEETINGS AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, WE MADE OPENING STATEMENT; ONE INTERVENTION IN WORKING GROUP IN RESPONSE TO CUBAN ANTI-US/OAS DIATRIBE; STATED QUALIFICATION ON CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS; STATED OUR RESERVATIONS ON PANAMIAN RESOLUTION; AND ASKED TO HAVE LATTER INCLUDED IN RECORD. BEHIND THE SCENES, WE URGED THAT MEETING (AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAR DEL PLATA) BE KEPT ON GLOBAL

ISSUES, MAKING THIS POINT CLEARLY TO IGLESIAS, MAGEED, AND VARIOUS RECEPTIVE DELS. WE THINK THIS HAD BENEFICIAL EFFECT, AND HELPED PROMOTE GENERALLY CONSTRUCTIVE PARAGUAYAN PREAMBLE. (WE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GET PARAGUAY TO THROW IN EVEN STRONGER LANGUAGE, BUT THEY REFUSED, LARGELY BECAUSE ARGENTINA FELT IT MIGHT NOT FLY, AND, IN RETROSPECT, THEY WERE PROBABLY RIGHT.) EVEN PANAMA SPOKE IN FAVOR OF PARAGUAYAN PREAMBLE. FROM BEGINNING, WE CULTIVATED GOOD SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CARIBBEAN DELS, WHO TURNED OUT TO BE NON-POLITICAL, UNBIASED, UN-INSTRUCTED ON CANAL ISSUE, AND HELPFUL. WE FEEL THEY COULD BE VALUABLE ALLIES AT MAR DEL PLATA AS WELL.

8. NETHERLANDS WAS REPRESENTED BY WATER EXPERT FROM ARUBA, BUT HE WAS TOLD TO KEEP SILENT AND DID SO, ONLY INTERVENTION WAS MADE BY EMBASSY REP RE PANAMA ISSUE. U.K., FRANCE, AND CANADA LIKEWISE REMAINED SILENT EXCEPT FOR PANAMA QUESTION.

9. PANAMA DEL CAME UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO GET RESOLUTION ON CANAL ENDORSED. IT WAS APPARENTLY SUBJECTED TO CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE, BY SECRETARIAT AND ARGENTINE AND PERUVIANS DELS, TO (A) KEEP ISSUE OUT OF WORKING GROUPS, AND (B) TO DILUTE THE ORIGINAL, VERY STRONG RESOLUTION IT PROPOSED. ON BASIS OF ECLA HABITAT PRECEDENT, SO WE WERE TOLD, THEY CONVINCED PANAMA TO COME DOWN TO WHAT WAS FINALLY INTRODUCED.

10. SECRETARIAT CLAIMS SOME CREDIT IN RESPONSE TO OUR ANTI-BILATERAL ISSUE URGINGS TOWARD GETTING PARAGUAY TO DRAFT PREAMBLE WORDING. WE WERE OFFERED CHANCE TO STRENGTHEN IT AND TRIED, BUT PARAGUAYANS, AFTER CONSULTING ARGENTINES AND OTHERS, STUCK WITH ORIGINAL WORDING.
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PERHAPS THIS WAS POLITICALLY BEST, AS MUCH STRONGER WORDS MIGHT WELL HAVE RUN INTO SOME DIFFICULTY WITH PANAMA AND CUBA.

11. LATINS SEEM CONTENT SO FAR WITH MAGEED AND SECRETARIAT PREPARATIONS FOR MAR DEL PLATA; THEY RECOGNIZE HE HAS LIMITED BUDGET.

12. MAGEED STRIKES US AS RATHER WEAK LEADER. HE EXERCISED ESSENTIALLY NO REPEAT NO BEHIND-THE-SCENES LEADERSHIP HERE. HE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT ENTHUSED ABOUT OUR INTEREST IN KEEPING BILATERAL ISSUES AWAY FROM MAR DEL PLATA. HE IS STRONG ON INTERGRATED RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS FROM HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE NILE, INCLUDING PRIOR CONSULTATION. (ARGENTINES LIKE HIM FOR THIS.) WE THINK HE LEANS TO-

WARD LDC INTERESTS IN ANY KIND OF DC-LDC CONTROVERSIES.
HE SEEMS TO BE STILL FEELING HIS WAY THROUGH THE U.N. MAZE.

13. THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT
SAFETY OF DELEGATES IN ARGENTINA, EITHER IN MEETINGS OR
IN CORRIDER CONVERSATION, SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE. MAGEED
AND OLIVER WERE QUITE SATISFIED FROM WHAT THEY SAW IN
ARGENTINA AND FROM ASSURANCES THEY RECEIVED THAT GOA WOULD
DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY IN SECURITY LINE.

14. COMMENT: PROGRESS TOWARD MAR DEL PLATA CONTINUES
REASONABLY WELL. LOW BUDGET CLEARLY INHIBITS SUCH THINGS AS
TRANSLATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAM REPORTS. WHILE LIMA
MEETING DID NOT DO TOO BADLY AT KEEPING EXTRANEIOUS
ISSUES OUT, OUR EXPERIENCE HERE PLUS MAGEED ATTITUDE
WOULD SUGGEST THAT SOME OF THESE WILL PROBABLY FIND
THEIR WAY TO MAR DEL PLATA.
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